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571-273-8300**Phone****If you experience problems receiving this fax, please call** Katie Drury **at** 617.951.2288.**Message :** Re: Our Docket No. 56950 (70840)
U.S. Serial No. 10/068,150

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Docket No. 56950 (70840)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: A. Kuriyama et al.

U.S. SERIAL NO: 10/068,150

EXAMINER: N. Hernandez

FILED: February 6, 2002

GROUP: 2612

FOR: IMAGING DEVICE WITH SOLID OPTICAL MEMBER

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By: 

Steven M. Jensen

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action dated March 20, 2006.

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,157,018 to Ishiguro et al. ("Ishiguro") in view of U.S. Patent 1,653,575 to Kirtane. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

On page 3, second to last paragraph of the Office Action of 03/20/2006, it was stated: "Ishiguro fails to teach that a space between the convex mirror and the optical member is filled with a light-transmissive material."

The Kirtane reference was cited to allegedly overcome the deficiencies of the Ishiguro reference. However, Kirtane does not teach or suggest an imaging device in which a space between a convex mirror and an optical member is filled with a light-transmissive material.

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Kirtane does not teach or suggest the use of a **convex mirror**. In Kirtane, reference number 1 corresponds to a "top glass element" which is "a solid glass cylinder from which is removed a conical portion to give an air cone" (see Kirtane at page 1, lines 54-60).

On page 4, line 3 of the Office Action, the apex 3 of the air cone was cited as allegedly corresponding to Applicants' claimed "convex mirror."

However, Kirtane merely discloses that the top glass element 1 has a conical portion removed, thereby producing the "air cone" shown in FIG. 1, the air cone having a base 2 and an apex 3 pointed downwards (see Kirtane at page 1, lines 62-63).

Therefore, there is no teaching or suggestion of a light-transmissive material filling the space between a **convex mirror** and an optical member. Kirtane simply does not teach or suggest the use of a **convex mirror**.

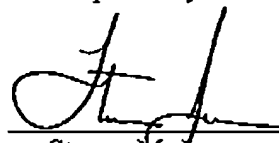
Even if the Kirtane reference was somehow combined with Ishiguro, the proposed combination would not teach or suggest an imaging device in which a space between a convex mirror and an optical member is filled with a light-transmissive material, at least for the reasons discussed above.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 20, 2006

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